

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22998 01 OF 02 271613Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 ACDA-12
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3498
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
WHITEHOUSE WASH DC
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 22998

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS XF
SUBJECT: PRESS STOICALLY UPBEAT ON ISMAILIA SUMMIT.

REF: CAIRO 22917

SUMMARY. PRESS PLAYS UP POSITIVE ASPECTS OF
ISMAILIA TALKS BASED ON SINAI ISSUE. NOTES DIFFERENCES ON
FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS BUT LEAVES THESE TO CONTINUING
DIALOGUE AND POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE. COMMON
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 22998 01 OF 02 271613Z

THEME IS THAT WAY TO PEACE LONG BUT CAN BE TRAVELLED.
BURIES SADAT STATEMENT THAT BEGIN HAS YET TO MAKE HARD
DECISIONS OR REAL CONCESSIONS. THIS VIEW, HOWEVER,
TYPIFIES REACTION OF MOST EGYPTIANS WE HAVE POLLED.

1. TODAY'S HEADLINES OVER VERBATIM REPORT OF ISMAILIA
SUMMIT ACCENTUATE PROGRESS ACHIEVED, BUT ALSO NOTE

DIFFERENCES ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE. ALL DAILIES MADE MAXIMUM USE OF POSITIVE PRONOUNCEMENTS ON SINAI WITH BANNERS SUCH AS "PROGRESS ON WITHDRAWAL" AND "NO PROBLEM ON SINAI". SAME BANNERS OBLIGED TO NOTE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "AUTONOMY" FOR PALESTINIANS AND "SELF-DETERMINATION". PRESS ATTEMPTS MINIMIZE DAMAGE BY HIGHLIGHTING EGYPTIAN FIRMNESS, MAINTAINING "THAT ALL ISSUES CAN BE SOLVED" AND SUGGESTING THAT ADDITIONAL STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES.

2. COMMENTARY AND EDITORIALS IN GENERAL WERE EVEN MORE DOGGEDLY UPBEAT, DOUBTLESS IN RESPONSE TO GOE ENCOURAGEMENT. TENDED ALSO TO FIND PLEASURE IN TODAY'S PROGRESS ON SINAI WHILE LEAVING FOR TOMORROW BRIDGING OF GAP ON PALESTINIANS. ON AHRAH FRONT PAGE HAMDI GAMAL DESCRIBED ISMAILIA AS NEW STEP ON ROAD TO PEACE AND PRACTICAL START IN EFFORTS TOAJRDS COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION. POSITED FOREMOST ACHIEVEMENTS OF SADAT-BEGIN TALKS AS (A) ISRAEL MOVED FROM OLD "EVASIVENESS" TO CONFRONTING ISSUES BY PRESENTING FULL PEACE PLAN; (B) ISRAEL DEMONSTRATED RESPECT FOR EGYPT'S INTERNATIONAL BORDERS, A GREAT STEP FORWARDS TOWARDS OVERALL SETTLEMENT; (C) SUBSTANCE, NOT PROCEDURE, WAS FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS; AND (D) TALKS SHOWED THAT PALESTINIANS ARE CORE OF PROBLEM. BOTH PARTIES DEMONSTRATED REAL DESIRE FOR PEACE. THIS ECHOED POINT FOR POINT IN AKHBAR'S EDITORIAL WHICH ADDED THAT ISMAILIA PROVED THAT REJECTIONISTS' CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 22998 01 OF 02 271613Z

EGYPT IS BASELESS. AHRAH ARGUED THAT THOSE WHO WERE BETTING EGYPT WOULD CONCLUDE UNILATERAL SETTLEMENT SHOULD NOW BE ABLE TO SEE THE LIGHT. PREDICTED THAT WAY TO PEACE WILL BE LONG BUT EGYPT WILL CONTINUE ITS STRUGGLE. GUMHURIYYA SAID NOBODY EXPECTED PEACE AGREEMENT COULD BE ARRIVED AT IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. GREAT LEAP FORWARD HAD BEEN TAKEN.

3. CAIRO CONFERENCE. SAME STOIC APPROACH CHARACTERIZED GOE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CAIRO CONFERENCE ADJOURNED PENDING MEETINGS BY NEW POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES. GOE SPOKESMAN MURSI SAAD EL-DIN SAID LAST SHORT SESSION OF CONFERENCE WAS DEVOTED PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES ON MEETINGS HELD THUS FAR "IN ORDER DETERMINE NATURE OF FUTURE WORK." NOTED THAT DIFFERENCES EMERGED "ON SOME POINTS, INCLUDING WEST BANK AND PALESTINIAN HOMELAND". POLITICAL COMMITTEE WOULD STUDY THESE, HOWEVER, TO FIND SOLUTION.

4. PRESS, FACED WITH FACTS OF ISMAILIA, WAS CAUGHT BETWEEN DESIRE/INSTRUCTIONS TO PLAY UP PROGRESS FOR EGYPTIANS AND ARABS AND TO REAFFIRM EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATING FIRMNESS. ALL PAPERS THUS REPORT PRESIDENT SADAT'S UNUSUAL POST

PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS IN WHICH HE SAID THAT ISRAEL HAS YET TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS OR REAL CONCESSIONS. HOWEVER, AHRAH HAD IT ON INSIDE PAGES AND AKHBAR GAVE IT ONLY BOTTOM TWO INCHES OF FRONT PAGE COLUMN THREE. PUBLISHER MUSA SABRI PICKED UP ON THIS VIEW TO WRITE IN AKHBAR THAT SADAT INDEED CORRECT, BUT SABRI STILL CONCLUDED ON UPBEAT NOTE BASED ON "DAYAN'S FLEXIBILITY AND ENTHUSIASM FOR PEACE AGREEMENT", AND EXPECTED TWO COMMITTEES TO FINISH

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22998 02 OF 02 271614Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 22998

THEIR WORK IN TWO-THREE MONTHS. SADAT'S STATEMENT DRAWS BOTTOM LINE ON GOE VIEWS OF PROCEEDINGS AND TYPIFIES REACTION OF MOST EGYPTIANS WE HAVE POLLED (SEPTTEL). EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO22998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770482-0163
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771217/aaaaanih.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 72620efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 22917
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 128927
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS STOICALLY UPBEAT ON ISMAILIA SUMMIT.
TAGS: MPOL, SOPN, EG, IS, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72620efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009